

**State Board of Education  
Briefing Paper  
Minimum Basic Education Compliance**

**RCW/ WAC Cites:** RCWs 28A.150.205, 28A.150.220(1) and (3), 28A.150.250, 28A.410.025  
WACs 180-16-210, 180-16-215, 180-16-220, 180-18-030

**Definition:** Reporting on the **Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance FORM 1497** gives assurance to the State Board of Education that school districts are in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Basic Education Act, as well as several other provisions.

Currently, the following requirements remain in statute and will continue to be reported to the State Board of Education. (See corresponding RCWs and WACs.)

- **Instructional Hour Offerings-RCW 28A.150.205, RCW 28A.150.220(1), and WAC 180-18-030**
- Kindergarten offerings of 450 hours
- Grades 1-12 offerings of a district-wide annual average of 1,000 hours linked to the essential academic learning requirements and other district-determined subjects/activities

**“Instructional hours”** means those hours students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational activity planned by and under the direction of school district staff, as directed by the administration and board of directors of the district, inclusive of intermissions of class changes, recess, and teacher/parent-guardian conferences that are planned and scheduled by the district for the purpose of discussing students’ educational needs or progress, and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.

Currently, for the purpose of calculating instructional hour offering minimum requirements, the State Board of Education refers school districts to RCW 28A.150.205.

- **K-3/4-12 Students to Classroom Teacher Ratio-RCW 28A.150.250 and WAC 180-16-210**

The district ratio of FTE classroom students to FTE classroom teachers in grades K-3 is no greater than the district ratio of FTE classroom students to FTE classroom teachers in grades 4 and above.

- **Minimum 180-Day School Year-RCW 28A.150.220(3) and WAC 180-16-215**

The 180-day program is accessible to all legally eligible students, including students with disabilities five years of age and under 21 years of age, who have not completed high school graduation requirements.

- **Current and Valid Certificates-RCW 28A.400.100 and RCW 28A.410.025, WAC 180-16-220**

All school district employees serving in positions requiring a professional education teacher or administrative permit, certificate, or credential **DO** hold a valid permit, certificate, or credential.

**History:** On September 1, 2000, several modifications of the basic education requirements took place due to repeals/amendments of statutes associated with implementation of a performance-based education system. The revised two-page form replaced the 23-page Application for Entitlement to Basic Education Funding – FORM OSPI M-808. This revised form greatly reduced time and effort as well as paperwork for schools and district offices.

**The following was REPEALED effective September 1, 2000:**

- Classroom Teacher Contact Hour Requirement-RCW 28A.150.260 and WAC 180-16-205

The average annual classroom contact hours for each average annual full-time equivalent certificated classroom teacher employed by a school district shall be no less than 25 hours per week.

**State Board Role:** Annually, SBE certifies all school district as in compliance with the Basic Education Act. This activity has been completed for the 2005-06 school year.

**OSPI Role:** Annually, OSPI assists SBE staff in electronically sending notice and forms to school districts and Educational Service Districts. This activity has been completed for the 2005-06 school year.

**Effect on Districts:** Annually, school districts are required to complete **FORM 1497 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance** and mail one copy, by mid-November, with original signatures of the local school superintendent and board chair, to the State Board of education, Basic Education Assistance Program. FORM 1497 and accompanying memorandum is posted on the SBE web site.

**Recommendation from Staff:** The SBE is required in statute to annually check school district compliance with the Basic Education Act and certify such with school districts. Staff recommends continuing the notification and compliance process.

Pat Eirish  
April 2006